

State of California – The Natural Resource Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
PO Box 2006
Eureka, CA 95520-2006

PROJECT TITLE: Tree removal for resource protection

LOCATION: Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park **COUNTY:** Del Norte

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: In order to protect an environmentally and archeologically sensitive area, an unhealthy Douglas fir tree will be removed in the campground. This 4.98 foot DBH tree has been determined by the State Parks Forester to be a hazard, due to its severe lean, and is likely to fall soon. The targets of this hazard tree cannot be moved, as they are cultural resources and old growth trees, which comprise marbled murrelet and northern spotted owl habitat. Cutting the tree will also prevent the root mass from lifting out of the ground and damaging other large trees and sensitive resources connected to the roots. State Parks has received agreement from USFWS and CDFW to be able to remove the tree. Work will;

Using standard felling techniques, cut one tree by controlled directional felling to avoid surrounding standing trees. All work will be done outside of the Marbled Murrelet and Spotted Owl breeding season (between September 15 and February 1) and will be performed by State Parks staff.

Because the tree leans too far to entirely avoid the sensitive areas, protective measures will be used to assure there are no impacts to sensitive areas. Huckleberry branches will be tied back or minimally pruned to create an open space to lay a bed of campground (CG) sourced native organic woody material to absorb the impact when the tree lands. This bed will be 3 feet deep and 10-15 feet wide, and extend onto the trail and road. Once the tree has fallen, Park Staff will remove only the section of tree and woody material that crosses the road and trail, and leave the rest in place. The huckleberries will be untied to allow the plants to resume their natural features.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: North Coast Redwoods District

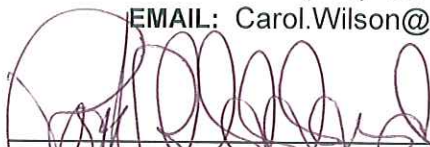
EXEMPT STATUS: ☒ Categorical Exemption Class: 1 and 4 Section: 15301 and 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: This project consists of the maintenance and minor alteration of public facilities involving no expansion of use beyond current levels and minor public alteration in the condition of land and/or vegetation which does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

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Roger R. Goddard, Acting District Manager
North Coast Redwoods District

12-19-14
DATE